

II. REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 6, 7, 9-13 and 15 contain allowable subject matter (Office Action, dated November 16, 2006, at 5, lines 4-7).

Claim 15 has been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 6 and 16 have been amended, and new claims 17-21 have been added. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to additionally recite "wherein each key of the touch screen defines a different number" and "wherein the microprocessor unit registers sensitive keys or pads activated during the movement of the finger or stylus on the screen from the first key to the second key to determine the security code based on the first number entered, the second number entered and the specific trajectory of the finger on the keys activated during movement of the finger" as supported on page 3, lines 1-9, page 5, lines 2-4, and on page 6, lines 28-30 of the specification as originally filed. Claim 1 has additionally been amended to replace the word "reference" with the word --number-- as supported on page 5, lines 2-4, of the specification as originally filed.

Claims 2 and 6 have been amended so as to use consistent language in accordance with antecedent terms.

Claim 16 has been amended to additionally recite "wherein each key of the touch screen defines a different number for a security code to be composed" and "wherein the microprocessor unit registers the sensitive keys or pads activated during the movement of the finger or stylus on the screen from the first key to the second key to determine the security code based on the first number entered, the second number entered and the specific trajectory of the finger on the keys

activated during movement of the finger” as supported on page 3, lines 1-9, page 5, lines 2-4, and on page 6, lines 28-30 of the specification as originally filed. Claim 16 has additionally been amended to replace the word “reference” with the word --number-- as supported on page 5, lines 2-4, of the specification as originally filed.

New claim 17 depends upon claim 16 and corresponds to subject matter recited by claim 8. New claim 18 depends upon claim 16 and corresponds to subject matter recited by previous claim 15.

New independent claim 19 incorporates the subject matter of original claim 1 and additionally incorporates the limitation “wherein the electronic device is a portable object fitted with means for transmitting and/or receiving signals for wireless communication with a first transceiver of the apparatus or the given location, wherein the security code is entered on the portable object in order to be transmitted to the first transceiver and verified to allow access to the apparatus or the given location” from claim 6. New claim 20 depends upon claim 19, and additionally recites subject matter supported by previous claims 6 and 7.

New independent claim 21 incorporates subject matter from previous claims 1 and 15, and corresponds to claim 15 rewritten in independent form. Therefore, new claim 21 has the same scope as previous claim 15.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the above-captioned application.

A. The Invention

The present invention pertains broadly to a method of input of a security code by means of a touch screen of an electronic device and an electronic device for implementing the method,

such as may be used to input a security code on a touch screen for access to a function, apparatus or location. In accordance with a method embodiment of the present invention, a method of input of a security code is provided that includes the steps recited by independent claim 1. In accordance with another method embodiment of the present invention, a method of input of a security code is provided that includes the steps recited by independent claim 19. In accordance with still another method embodiment of the present invention, a method of input of a security code is provided that includes the steps recited by independent claim 21. In accordance with an apparatus embodiment of the present invention, an electronic device is provided that includes the features recited by independent claim 16. Various other embodiments, in accordance with the present invention, are recited by the independent claims.

An advantage of the method and apparatus embodiments of the present invention is that they make it easy and quick to use a finger or stylus to input a security code on the touch screen of an electronic device without requiring the use of a push-button keyset.

B. The Rejections

Claims 1-4, 14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Taylor (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0109677 A1, hereafter the “Taylor Publication”).

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Taylor Publication. Claim 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Taylor Publication in view of Fujii (U.S. Patent 4,644,352, hereafter the “Fujii Patent”).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and request reconsideration of the above-captioned application for the following reasons.

C. Applicants' Arguments

New independent claim 21 corresponds to previous claim 15, which includes allowable subject matter, rewritten in independent form. Therefore, new claim 21 is allowable for the reasons of record.

Anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires showing the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist & Derrick, 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). In this case, the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of anticipation against the instant claims because the Taylor Publication does not teach each and every claimed element, arranged as in the claims.

i. The Taylor Publication

The Taylor Publication teaches a “touchpad entry system” wherein a touchpad having a plurality of distinct zones, as shown in Figure 1, uses movement of a user's finger on the surface of the touchpad between zones, the act of lifting a finger off of the touchpad surface, the act of placing a finger on the touchpad surface, and the movement of a specific pattern of a finger within a single zone as actions that will generate characters that are transmitted from the touchpad to a receiving device (See Abstract of the Taylor Publication). A small number of

movements of a finger or stylus across the touchpad are thus capable of generating a large number of characters for use in a password or code (See Abstract of the Taylor Publication).

In other words, the Taylor Publication teaches a method of composing one of several characters by movement of a finger on several keys of a touchpad such that the touchpad is only intended to compose a security code using a limited number of keys although a great number of characters may be inputted based on the successive actuation of keys. According to the method taught by the Taylor Publication, several keys have to be actuated for each recognized character to be composed, which is a different method than that of the presently claimed invention. Thus, the Taylor Publication does not teach, or even suggest, “each key of the touch screen defines a different number” as recited by independent claims 1 and 16.

The Taylor Publication also does not teach, or suggest, that the first key actuated by the finger represents the first reference or number of the code, that the second key actuated by the finger represents the second reference or number of the code (which can be different or the same number as that of the first number), and that the microprocessor unit takes into account the specific trajectory of the finger on the touch screen from the first key to the second key in more of the first and second numbers to enter for the code to be validated. Therefore, the Taylor Publication does not teach, or suggest, that “the first key represents a first reference of the code to be entered” and the step of “moving the finger or stylus on the touch screen over a specific trajectory from the first key to a second key of the touch screen, wherein the second key represents a second reference of the code to be entered” as recited by independent claim 19. The Taylor Publication also does not teach, or suggest, that “the electronic device is a portable object fitted with means for transmitting and/or receiving signals for wireless communication with a

first transceiver of the apparatus or the given location, wherein the security code is entered on the portable object in order to be transmitted to the first transceiver and verified to allow access to the apparatus or the given location” as recited in claim 19.

For all of the above reasons, the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of anticipation against the instant claims.

ii. The Section 103 Rejection

A prima facie case of obviousness requires a showing that the scope and content of the prior art teaches each and every element of the claimed invention, and that the prior art provides some teaching, suggestion or motivation to combine the references to produce the claimed invention. In re Oetiker, 24 U.S.P.Q.2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992); In re Vaeck, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In this case, the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness against the instant claims because the combination of the Taylor Publication and the Fujii Patent fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention.

iii. The Taylor Publication

The teachings of the Taylor Publication has been described above. In addition, as admitted by the Examiner, the Taylor Publication does not teach, or suggest, that the “device is a wrist watch” comprising the claimed features (Office Action, dated August 30, 2006, at 4, lines 10-15).

iv. The Fujii Patent

The Fujii Patent teaches a “radio wave data transmission watch device,” as shown in Figure 8, that includes a plurality of switches, a data converter and a transmission section (See Abstract of the Fujii Patent). The Fujii Patent teaches that the switches are selectively activated by a finger tip being moved as if to write a character, thereby providing data showing a character (See Abstract of Fujii Patent). The data converter converts this data into radio wave signals and then these signals are transmitted from a transmission section (See Abstract of Fujii Patent).

However, the Fujii Patent does not teach, or suggest, that (i) “each key of the touch screen defines a different number” as recited by independent claims 1 and 16, and (ii) “the first key represents a first reference of the code to be entered,” and the step of “moving the finger or stylus on the touch screen over a specific trajectory from the first key to a second key of the touch screen, wherein the second key represents a second reference of the code to be entered,” and that “the electronic device is a portable object fitted with means for transmitting and/or receiving signals for wireless communication with a first transceiver of the apparatus or the given location, wherein the security code is entered on the portable object in order to be transmitted to the first transceiver and verified to allow access to the apparatus or the given location” as recited by independent claim 19.

III. CONCLUSION

New independent claim 21 corresponds to previous claim 15 rewritten in independent form, and is therefore allowable for the reasons of record.

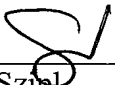
With respect to independent claims 1, 16 and 19, the Examiner has failed to establish either a prima facie case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because neither the Taylor Publication nor the Fujii Patent teach, or suggest, that (i) “each key of the touch screen defines a different number” as recited by independent claims 1 and 16, and (ii) “the first key represents a first reference of the code to be entered,” and the step of “moving the finger or stylus on the touch screen over a specific trajectory from the first key to a second key of the touch screen, wherein the second key represents a second reference of the code to be entered,” and that “the electronic device is a portable object fitted with means for transmitting and/or receiving signals for wireless communication with a first transceiver of the apparatus or the given location, wherein the security code is entered on the portable object in order to be transmitted to the first transceiver and verified to allow access to the apparatus or the given location” as recited by independent claim 19.

For all of the reasons stated above, claims 1-14 and 16-21 are in condition for allowance and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, P.C.



Joerg-Uwe Szipl
Registration No. 31,799

Griffin & Szipl, P.C.
Suite PH-1
2300 Ninth Street, South
Arlington, VA 22204

Telephone: (703) 979-5700
Facsimile: (703) 979-7429
Email: GANDS@szipl.com
Customer No.: 24203